

Consumerism and free enterprise

Board of Elections appointment smells

One of the good things that will probably come out of all the Watergate/Nixon administration scandals is that politicians may learn to be extra cautious in their actions, making sure that all is above board and undoubtedly ethical.

Before doing anything, the elected official should think of all consequences and decide whether he is doing the right thing, morally speaking.

We hope this thought preceded the appointment by Student Body President Ford Runge of his executive assistant, Richard Letchworth, to the position of Elections Board chairman.

Yet his announcement of this appointment, which has yet to be approved by the Campus Governing Council Appointments Committee showed not the least bit of concern that people might think the appointment a little bit on the shady side.

The thought did not seem to enter Runge's mind in considering this appointment that there is something wrong, ethically speaking, in

appointing a person that has been vital in the "Runge administration" to a position that requires fairness and impartiality.

This is not to say that Letchworth will not be fair and impartial. He probably will be.

The announcement of the appointment showed little forethought on ethics, as Runge said Letchworth might keep his position as executive assistant, depending on the work load.

It looks like the only concern in the appointment was the work load. Letchworth has since quit his position as Runge's "right-hand man"; however, he will be keeping his same desk in Runge's Suite C offices. It looks as though the campus elections will be run directly out of Runge's office.

None of the circumstances of this appointment show concern that the running of the student elections appear fair. It is also unfortunate Runge appears to know no one unconnected with his administration who can handle the job in a competent and fair manner.

"Warning to all incoming students: Chapel Hill is a Rip-off."

Remember hearing that from your friends when you were accepted here? Remember saying that to the new group as they were being accepted here? You probably do. It was probably yesterday or five minutes ago. To a large extent, Chapel Hill still is a rip-off.

Until recently, merchants in this area had no way of knowing or discovering what students and other consumers wanted. All businesses knew was that they were staying in business. Since they were staying in business, their products must be selling; and if their products were being bought, then the customers must be happy. Right?

Wrong! The syllogism is logical enough, but it does not explain the persistent truism above. Obviously, communications between consumers and merchants in Chapel Hill is lousy.

The Student Consumer Action Union was formed to give the Chapel Hill consumer a voice and to give the Chapel Hill business community a tangible mechanism to respond to. SCAU is not only discounts and pamphlets. SCAU also investigates consumer complaints concerning anything from apartments to shoes.

Bruce Sampson

Wrong number leads to security leak

Ah winter, thunderstorms, sunny days, Dean Smith, rain, and the biennial defeat of UCLA. It was enough to make you wanna throw up. Mike sat up and looked into the mirror and frowned, "Shit! Classes. Where the hell does the weekend go?" Suddenly the telephone rang in the living room. Jumping out of bed, Mike stepped into a fresh pile of dog shit, and then encountered it's former owner, "Goddamn dog," he shrieked, kicking the dog very un-SPCA-ish.

"Hello!" "Mr. Canaloep?" "No this is..." "Mr. Canaloep this is Henry Bismark Johnson III of the Mobile Oil Credit Card Bureau in St. Louis. Your last payment has not yet been received by us and if..." "Hey man my name is Michael Ross!" "Trying to hide from us will do you no good, Mr. Canaloep. We, here at Mobile Oil, have the best credit card surveillance system

in the Nation. Why right now our spies are watching you." Mike hurriedly covered himself, not wanting some Bernard Barker type getting his jollies from seeing him there talking on the phone, with dogshit all around his foot. "Listen man, I ain't who you're looking for and what kind of spies are you rattin' about anyway?" "Well, Mr. Canaloep, since the oil crisis has started, the President has given each oil company a national security rank. Therefore, in the interest of national security, and in order for us to stay in business, we must start surveillance procedures against our customers for the good of the country.

to fly into the room through the windows. Gasping and strangled, Mike threw the receiver down and ran toward the back door which suddenly fell forward with a hail of machine gun bullets ripping through the wooden panel. In rushed four armed men wearing gas masks who surrounded Mike. Nearly blind and strangled, Mike stopped still. He was supplied with a gas mask and ushered back to the phone. One of the men held up the receiver to Mike's ear. "Now then, Mr. Canaloep, about the bill that we so desperately need paid..." "I'll pay, I'll pay, coughed Mike. "How much is it?"

Jim Cooper

Politics and sports: strange friends

"Politics is like coaching football: you have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."

-Eugene McCarthy

Such telling criticism is only too true of Richard Nixon. He understands politics too well for our own good, and combines the two with his constant football analogies. Gerry Ford, as we all now know, is a "team player." One wonders whatever happened to plain, old-fashioned statesmen.

Nixon seems to feel that his pigskin comparisons are effective, though few have proved phrase-worthy. Perhaps football elicits a gut reaction in Americans which Nixon wishes to capitalize upon. Perhaps it speaks to the common man, or, to be less offensive, the Middle American. Perhaps Nixon only seeks to add inspiration to his leader prose. But, more probably, he can't think in any other terms.

Too few political analysts have considered the meaning behind the football phrases, concerning themselves instead with quaint

idioms like "perfectly clear" or Ziegler's immortal "inoperative."

George Allen was painfully aware of the great difference between politics and football during the 1972 Super-Bowl. Sometimes one sport may closely parallel another in minor detail, but these two American pastimes are fundamentally incompatible in their basic premises. Close analogy is detrimental to both sports and leads to further confusion of objectives and techniques.

Certainly it's fine for a President to think of himself as a quarterback if he wants to, but it is easy to extend the analogy too far.

"Winning is not the important thing, it's the only thing." is both a quote from Vince Lombardi and Richard Nixon's motto. Nixon seems to agree with most coaches in condoning foul play within certain broad guidelines, two opposite goals, and a huge arena. Teams function, by their very nature, without commitment or belief in anyone or anything outside themselves. To Nixon it doesn't really matter which way he's going as long as he's moving the ball.

Though Nixon's sense of political reality is accurate enough to give him success without achievement, victory without renown, even the ground he has gained seems to have been lost. Most of his team has been removed for foul play, he can't fake very well or give a decent pep talk, and he only seems able to throw the bomb. Or perhaps we should make that plural.

Thankfully, Henry Kissinger is a good downfield receiver and makes up for much of Nixon's inaccuracy and indecision. Even Rosemary Woods has become remarkably athletic to help out, but Nixon still has to punt a lot. Like ("I won't resign") Agnew, when Nixon is most defensive he becomes offensive. Four quarters with Nixon and politics would have remained a game. Eight quarters and it's a tragedy.

In the short space of one year Watergate became a floodgate. Americans have grown used to being kept in the dark, and Nixon still seems to have his edifice complex. The Year of Europe faded faster than Kohoutek. To make things still worse, mistakes breed more mistakes. In return for one gap on the

tapes we now have five, for one attorney-general we've had four, and for one ITT scandal we now have three: The Milk Fund, the Wheat Deal, and the Hughes Caper. People have watched Nixon's grandstand plays as eagerly as Monday night football, and as regularly.

And yet his incompetence is less noticeable because Congress and the Democrats have failed to seize the initiative and make their own opposing drive. As far as running the country goes, a President, even a bad one, just doesn't have much competition.

Nixon continues to make as much yardage as possible with the tapes while the nation is tiring of the repetition, even of injustice. They turn off Watergate as quickly and as painlessly as the evening news, especially with the power shortages. Without voter concern Nixon may be the only man to live in the White House for four years and still not be President. Hopefully, our quarterback doesn't have the statue of liberty play next up his sleeve.

Letters to the editor

Reader questions sexual orientation

To the editor: Ms. Truitt Brown's letter to DTH of 1-18-74 is irritating, but mostly disheartening. I do not understand why a (possibly valid) argument concerning music criticism by Mr. Bisbort so casually and unnecessarily includes a put-down, albeit by implication, of gay people.

Ms. Brown comments: "Mr. Bisbort, I can readily tell that only of late did you discover music. I mean real music, not a bunch of long-haired faggots screaming obscenities and cute rhymes."

I wonder why the sexual orientation of the given musicians is of such importance that she feels compelled to refer to it in the terms used; the generalization is probably inaccurate, anyway, as well as irrelevant. Most importantly, the comment seems designed to evoke a distinctly negative reaction on the reader's part, and does so at the expense of homosexuals. I wonder why Ms. Brown feels her words/criticisms derive

greater validity by derogatory reference to "long-haired faggots."

Ms. Brown, among others, may accuse me of over-reacting. After all, it was a peripheral remark, and (obviously?) unthinkingly written. Who cares?

Name withheld upon request

Student objects to offensive word

To the editor: This letter is in response to Truitt Brown's letter in the Friday issue of The Daily Tar Heel. To be more specific it is in response to one word in his letter: "faggot."

I, as a homosexual, object to the use of this word and others like it. It is a derogatory

remark and a slur against a segment of our population.

Many people who pride themselves on their open-mindedness and concern for the feelings of others; and who would never use such words as "nigger," "kike," "spike," "gook," etc. use "faggot" and "queer" without any hesitation.

People who use such epithets only reveal their own ignorance and bigotry. And, though the usage of such words as "nigger," "spike," etc. has ceased in intelligent circles, ne use of "faggot" still continues.

But times are changing. Homosexuality is now recognized in medical and psychiatric circles as an alternate life-style and not as a "sickness." It is time for the rest of the population to grow up and realize this fact and to remove such slurs from their vocabularies.

Name withheld by request

WCAR performs useful function

To the editor:

There was a small article on the front page of The Daily Tar Heel Jan. 18 mentioning the fact that WCAR has only \$193 left and so Bill Snodgrass considers the managers incompetent and wants the station put off the air to avoid creating a deficit, which "Student government law does not allow."

I am only a freshman here, so I don't know how the Yack is funded, but skipping merrily across the page I read that it has a \$2,000 deficit, which is a lot more in the hole than \$193. Flipping through to the editorial page we see that there has been no quorum at another meeting of the Judicial committee of CGC, leaving the impression that the

members don't really care about all the work that has gone into the Judicial reform bill.

If lack of apathy is any indicator of the worth of something, than WCAR must be fairly worthwhile, because people spend a lot of time and effort there, and the labors of other people are respected more than in some of the upper levels of organizations of CGC.

To be practical, it would also seem ridiculous to waste the investment of time and money that has been put into the equipment.

I believe that WCAR performs as useful a function as most CGC funded things around here, and maybe more than some.

Laura Dekerson 111 Spencer

Letters

The Daily Tar Heel provides the opportunity for expression of opinions by readers through letters to the editor. This newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters for libelous statements and good taste.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and must include the name, address and phone number of the writer. Type letters on a 60-space line and address them to Editor, The Daily Tar Heel, in care of the Student Union.



What must a girl go through to get an education?